

Report to: Corrections Advisory Council
Date: February 12, 2008
From: Deb Matteucci, Behavioral Health Program Facilitator; DOC/DPHHS

The Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections share a similar client: the offender with a mental disorder. They are committed to working together to identify shared planning opportunities, information, resources and treatment methods. Over the past 18 months, a number of "little victories" have occurred. Most took no additional funding and no legislative or policy changes. Nearly all were a result of improved communications.

New Programs

- Probation Intervention Project (MCDC) – creation of a new program of services for offenders on probation who may be in need of inpatient chemical dependency treatment in order to maintain his/her community corrections placement and avoid revocation to inmate status and secure custody. These 8 treatment beds are provided at the Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC) in Butte and are designated specifically for this target population.
- Services for Offenders with Mental Illness - This program will provide mental health treatment services, as well as designate up to 30 prerelease beds, for adult offenders with serious mental illness who are under the supervision of the community corrections division in the department of corrections. The services may include case management, treatment, transition support, and medication monitoring. Services will be developed in a minimum of three of the six community corrections regions. The program will also provide training to community probation and parole officers about mental illness and chemical dependency and about how to assist offenders to enroll in public benefit programs, if appropriate.
- Prescription Medications for Offenders with Mental illness - This program will provide a prescription benefit for adult or juvenile offenders leaving secure care who meet the criteria for serious mental illness and/or serious emotional disturbance and who have not been enrolled in public benefit programs. Program elements may include a 60-day supply of medications at release from secure custody and other short term medication purchases for offenders who become unstable and need medications and who are not eligible for other public prescription drug programs.

Milestones for Services & Prescriptions Programs:

- June 2007 – initial program descriptions developed for DPHHS/AMDD to be used in division planning
- Sept 2007 – funds transfer from HHS to DOC begins; initial draft of DOC policies to guide programs completed; Outcome measures defined by HHS & DOC staff; Preliminary program training and orientation provided to Adult Community Corrections Managers/Regional Administrators
- Oct 2007 – E-mail boxes created for online application to new programs; preliminary letters sent to regional prerelease centers to determine level of interest in mental health services contracts
- Nov 2007 – first scheduled SOAR training for P & P officers – Region 1 Missoula, Region 5 Kalispell; Comment period for DOC policies (thru Nov 15); November 20, 2007 – Director Ferriter approves and signs new policies; Medication Request form and instructions emailed to Community Corrections Staff to begin program
- Dec 11 – Community Mental Health Bureau field staff trained on program access; Adult Community Corrections managers trained on program access
- Jan 2008 – Prerelease contract amendments proposed to include mental health services in all centers. Community Health Centers offered funding to serve the target population.

Law & Justice Interim Committee

- Four study resolutions assigned with mental health component.
 - SJR24 – Alternative Sentencing
 - HJR26 – Study mental health in adult and juvenile corrections
 - SJR50 – Pre-commitment costs and process
 - SJR6 – study juvenile mental health system
- Oct 2007 - Moderated adult panel discussions on stages of the mental health and criminal justice intersect – juvenile panel discussions held in November
- Survey being developed to go out to counties and to community hospitals to begin to assess the costs associated with pre-commitment placements

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)

- Secure Treatment and Examination Program (STEP) – this MOU provided the framework for a secure treatment program to serve offenders with serious mental illness placed in either the Montana State Hospital or one of our prison facilities. The MOU outlined duties of each department, treatment guidelines, security needs and stakeholder involvement. The MOU served as a baseline for development of Senate Bill 149, proposed to the 2007 Legislature.
- Behavioral Health Program Facilitator (BHPF) – this MOU provides the guidelines for the supervision and coordination of duties for this shared employee. The MOU requires that the two departments meet and set a budget annually for the work efforts of this liaison, and details supervision duties.
- Guilty but Mentally III (GBMI) - Protocol and MOU
 - MOU signed and distributed to all stakeholders within DOC, HHS, BOPP and the Governor's Office.
 - Protocol approved by Directors Ferriter and Miles, December 7, 2007
 - First parole board hearings held at MSH December 27, 2007. Sixteen patients have been identified as parole eligible

Legislation

- Secure Treatment and Examination Program (STEP)
 - SB149 this legislation was jointly proposed by the Departments of Corrections and Public Health & Human Services to provide for the organization, structure, program components and oversight of STEP. The legislation was approved by the full senate 40 – 10, but was tabled in the House Appropriations Committee.
 - HB2 – operations funding for STEP was approved as part of the Governor's proposed budget and was accepted and approved by the Health and Human Services Subcommittee. This funding was removed at the request of the Administration as part of a package of reductions to achieve a balanced budget proposal.
 - HB4 – Long Range Building – this legislation was passed in the May 2007 Special Legislative Session and provides \$5.8 Million for renovations on the Warm Springs Campus specific to the STEP proposal. This appropriation will completely remodel the Receiving Hospital to accommodate a chemical dependency treatment program and will provide key facility and security upgrades to the Xanthopoulos building to provide for secure, inpatient mental health treatment.

Community Presentations & Trainings

- Conference on Mental Illness 2007 - Panel discussion with Warden Mahoney, MSP and Captain McCave, YCDC on **Mental Illness in Prisons and Jails**. We had a huge crowd and numerous questions. Many suggested an expansion of this topic area for future conferences
- Rehabilitation Conference - Presented to vocational rehab staff who work with offenders on the two new programs and how they may access mental health services and/or medications for offenders who are returning to work and need support
- Attended conference: "Which Way Out, (Sequential Intercept Model) Decriminalizing Mental Illness." Sheri Heffelfinger, Leg Staff and Mike Thatcher, community corrections program provider also attended from MT.